

# • C o u n t e r p o i s e •

## The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLXI

June 2010

Number 6



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: June 10, 2010 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post  
12207 Vahalla Dr. Lakeside CA. 92040

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

23.9h



***ECARC is Really Radio  
Active***

***Tower Team Training!  
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Members.***

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deployment...***

**Next Meeting**

**Program: "2010 Field Day"**

**Speaker: Mike, N6OPH**

**September Meeting!!!**

**Gordon West , WB6NOA**

**VHF - UHF Tropo Ducting to Hawaii**

*Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is a 501 (c) 7 nonprofit*

## 2010 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Secretary	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Treasurer	K16TTF	Joseph Matterson	

## 2010 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1107
Antenna Parties	AF6MX	Carl Cookson	
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Elmer	AD6UK	Nick Prodanovich	929-1225
Past President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogle" Panger	263-4439

## 2010 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Health & Welfare	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Historian	OPEN		
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Photographer	K16EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Social Chair		Polo Navarro	328-6209
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	K16EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	K16EEK	Lisie Rios	
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	K16EEL	Bridget Rios	

## Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
N6OPH	Mike	Vice President
KO4QT	Steve	Where is the Weed Patch
KC6TBG	Ann	Meeting Minutes
	Monica	PIO City of El Cajon
K16EEK	Lisie	WAMO
K16EEK	Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
AZ6CW	Morris	Chicken Noodle Soup
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
K16EEL	Bridget	Photos

## SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North  
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP  
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics  
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS  
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month  
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

## From The President

**Paul KC6QLS**



I would first like to thank Wild Bill, WB6BFG for sharing his adventures on his DXpedition to Jersey Island and the neighboring countries with us at our last meeting. It sounds like it was a lot of fun.

Field Day is upon us! Thanks to your kind donations, I believe that we have met our Field Day Food Fund Drive goal, but more donations are needed to replace the power cable that goes between our generator and distribution panel to aid us in running our equipment. If you have not already signed up indicating your intention to attend, please contact Mike N6OPH so that we can get a head count for food for the event. Mike, N6OPH, our Vice President and Field Day Chair, will be talking about Field Day at our June meeting.

For those who have never attended an ARCEC Field Day, please attend our next meeting so that you can get a better understanding of what the event is all about. See you at the meeting.

73

**Paul Rios, KC6QLS**  
President



## Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting  
13 May 2010



The General Membership Meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the Club President Paul, KC6QLS at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone was welcomed.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS by President Paul KC6QLS:

1. We are passing the hat for the Field Day Food Fun Drive - \$212.00 donated tonight.
2. We will also pass the hat for the Cable and Ends for the Gang Box Drive - \$78.00 donated tonight.
3. ARCEC is a 501 (c) 7 Non-Profit.
4. Field Day is around the corner! Mike, our VP will cover more in his report.
5. Extra Class starts September 14, 2010; See the Counterpoise and Website for more info.
6. SANDARC Convention Tickets are being sold here tonight by VP Mike, N6OPH in the back.
7. May 15, 2010 - Antenna Tower Training, more to follow during the business meeting.
8. May 16, 2010 - Antenna Party to prepare antennas for Field Day, more to follow.
9. May 18, 2010 - ARCEC Start the Spark Booth at the Murdock Elementary School Science Fair. The Event Chair is David Santoro, W6BTS, contact him at [w6bts@sdfop.com](mailto:w6bts@sdfop.com).
10. May 29, 2010, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., SANDARC Booth at the Santee Street Fair. Volunteers are needed. Contact Paul, KC6QLS at [kc6qls@cox.net](mailto:kc6qls@cox.net).
11. October 6, 2010 – ARCEC Start the Spark Booth at the Fire Station Open House, El Cajon.
12. October 30, 2010 – Borrego Springs Parade.
13. Paul Babbock, KD6AW is a Silent Key.

SECRETARY'S REPORT Motion to accept the Minutes as presented in the Counterpoise and posted on the Website was seconded and motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Joseph, KI6TTF. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read was seconded and motion carried. The report will be filed for audit.

WAMO Chair, Lisie KI6EEK presented a WAMO Certificate to Buck Hourcade, WH7IZ, WAMO 1786, for his 1<sup>st</sup> 20 WAMO's. He also received 2 additional add on stickers.

Prize Table Chair Floyd Lang, AF6BC announced the items for this evening.

Vice President, Mike N6OPH, introduced the speaker for this evening Wild Bill, WB6BFG, who spoke on his DXpedition to Jersey Island.

Announcement that during the break a Tower Training Video will be shown in the back room.

Break Time - Refreshments in the back – coffee and donuts for all!

After the break the business meeting continued.

PRESIDENT Paul, KC6QLS reported that the folks who watched the Tower Training Video during the break must still attend Tower Training on May 15, 2010 to be fully trained.

ARCEC SANDARC Del Mar Fair Booth Days are June 11, 12, and 13, 2010. Shifts are 10:00 am. to 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Contact Paul, KC6QLS at [kc6qls@cox.net](mailto:kc6qls@cox.net).

Please sign up as soon as possible if you wish to attend the Borrego Springs Parade. Volunteers are needed. Contact Paul, KC6QLS at [kc6qls@cox.net](mailto:kc6qls@cox.net).

Counterpoise Deadline is May 18, 2010.

VICE PRESIDENT Mike, N6OPH reported that Field Day is in June, and he will be the speaker. He can take orders for Field Day T-Shirts tonight and you must preorder them. Also, you can sign up for lodging (cabin, room, RV, tent) with Mike, and he will collect all funds and pay the camp directly.

EDUCATION REPORT by Mike, N6OPH that the Extra Class starts September 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and the instructor is Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW.



Continued Page 4

## Minutes Continued

**NET MANAGER** Mike, KG6TDP reported that he is announcing the upcoming club events on the nets, and there were 28 check-ins on the last WAMO net. Also, participation on the Frito and Donut Nets is up.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** Bridget, KI6EEL announced that we had a total of 66 in attendance tonight consisting of 60 members, 2 new members, and 4 visitors.

**PUBLIC SERVICE CHAIRMAN** Rich, N6NKJ reported on the Wild Fire Training Classes.

**SANDARC REPORT** by Mike, N6OPH that SANDARC voted to spend up to \$2,000.00 for updated Tech books to put in the libraries. SANDARC voted to donate \$500.00 to HandiHams. PAPA Group joined SANDARC.

**ELMER CHAIR** Nick reported that during the break the Tower Training Video was shown. There was a question and answer period and all went well. Send your ideas for topics to his email address listed in the Counterpoise. If you can help Elmer regarding specific tasks, please let him know this and your availability.

**SOCIAL CHAIRMAN** Report by Polo that volunteers are needed for Field Day to help in the kitchen; contact Polo or Mike, N6OPH if you can help. Also, please contribute to the Donut Food Fund Can so that we can continue to have refreshments at our meetings. Refreshments are funded totally by contributions.

There being no further business before the General Membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ann Rios, KC6TBG  
Secretary  
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



## Wild Bill, WB6BFG

At the meeting talking about some killer DX Expedition!

---

## Extra Class Schedule

Sept.	14
Sept.	21
Sept.	28
Oct.	12
Oct.	19
Oct.	26





# Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Congratulations to all who have upgraded your license!

If you have upgraded your license within the past year, please contact me at [kc6tbg@cox.net](mailto:kc6tbg@cox.net) or see me at the meeting so that I can update your information on the ARCEC Roster.

## New Members

Andrew Farrow KJ6BTG WAMO # 1837  
Dave Ray KJ6GOS WAMO # 1838

## Welcome Back Returning Members

Steve St. Martin KG6VVO WAMO #1727  
Oscar Quintanilla KF6YB WAMO #?

All Members are welcome to participate on all ARCEC weekly Nets. The WAMO Net is an opportunity to meet new members, collect WAMO's and practice your communication skills. Please join us. For more information on the dates and times, see page 6 of this Newsletter.

The 2010 ARCEC Roster is for club use only. However, please do not use this club roster to contact club members at the telephone numbers and addresses listed on the roster for the purpose of working a WAMO. The Rules for working WAMO are listed on the website and must be followed in order to receive WAMO Certificates. Also, copies of the WAMO Rules are available at club meetings.

73, Ann, KC6TBG

## Individual Dues Membership: \$18.00 per year(\$1.50 per month):

January	\$ 18.00	July	\$ 9.00
February	\$ 16.50	August	\$ 7.50
March	\$ 15.00	September	\$ 6.00
April	\$ 13.50	October	\$ 4.50
May	\$ 12.00	November	\$ 3.00
June	\$ 10.50	December	\$ 1.50 *

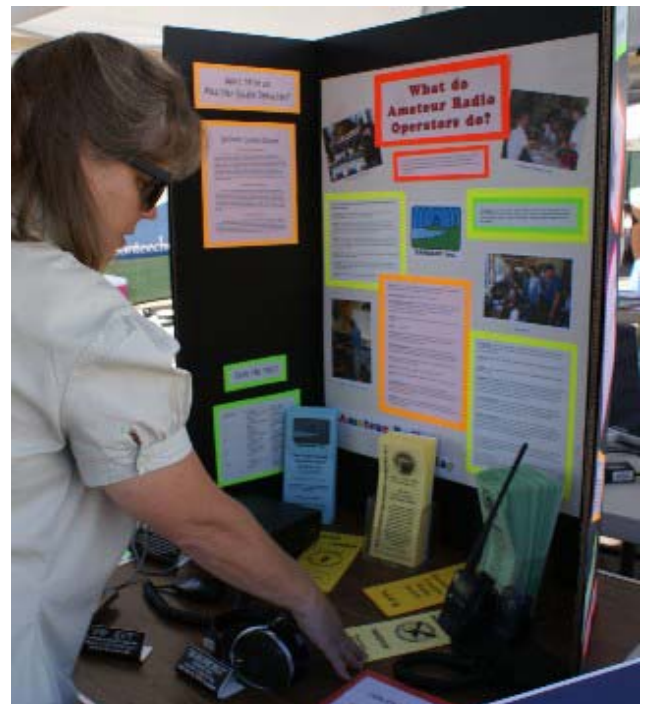
\*plus \$18.00 for the following year

## Family Dues Membership: \$30.00 per year (\$2.50 per month):

January	\$ 30.00	July	\$ 15.00
February	\$ 27.50	August	\$ 12.50
March	\$ 25.00	September	\$10.00
April	\$ 22.50	October	\$ 7.50
May	\$ 20.00	November	\$ 5.00
June	\$ 17.50	December	\$ 2.50 *

\*plus \$30.00 for the following year

Ann, KC6TBG  
Membership Chair



Some PR work at the Santee Street Fair! Reported that over 50,000 people walked around at the event. YES, many of them dropped in, at the booth to check it out!

## From The Vice President N6OPH Mike



June will be a very busy month for the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Our premier event is Field Day to be held at the Al Bahr Shrine Camp in the Mt. Laguna area on 26-27 June weekend. We will be traveling to the camp on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> to set up for the big day. In fact our June General Membership Meeting will be entirely devoted to polishing up of our final plans for Field Day. I, as your club Vice President and Field Day Chairman, will moderate the discussion. There are plenty of details in which to attend. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May we held our Pre-Field Day Antenna Party. This was to fine tune the antennae that would be used at the camp site. I was gratified to see twenty people at the shed to help out with the activities. The t-shirts are being ordered and should be ready on the mountain on Saturday morning. During the discussion at the June General Membership Meeting, we will formally take the reservations for the cabins, dorm rooms, RV pads and tent sites. The camp has requested that we make the reservations and collect the money prior to arriving at the campsite. This will be done during the General Membership Meeting. The Cabins are \$65 per night (at the present time they are sold out!); the dorm rooms are \$25 per night. There are two dorm rooms with three bunk beds in each room. The RV pads are \$17 per night (I believe that there is one left!) and the tenting sites are \$7 per night (plenty of room). During the General Membership Meeting, I will need your name and call along with the appropriate funds to make and hold your reservation. The club will have use of the entire campsite except for the lodge which may be closed. The radio stations would be on the porch (NO SMOKING please) and we should be a 9A this year. Missing from that line up would be PSK-31 and the GOTA station. We will confirm with those who will bring radio equipment for operation during the event. If your radio requires special instructions (such as tuning instructions, etc.) then please include them with your equipment.



Continued on Page 16

### WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Axel	KI6RRN	Donut Net

### WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights

8:00 p.m. local time 7:45 "Early Checkins"

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken.

### Donut Net:

Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Bring your Donuts. GOT MILK?

### Wide Open Ham Net:

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

### Frito's Corn Chip Net:

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. on 28.435 Mhz USB

Nets held on Club's WA6BGS Repeaters System

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

WAMO means Worked All Members Only.

The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

## Calendar of Events June 2010

June	1:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
June	5:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
June	5:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
June	10:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
June	11:	Del Mar Fair ARCEC Booth day 1
June	18:	Counterpoise Dead Line
June	19:	Kids Best Del Mar Fair
June	25/27	ARRL Field Day 2010

### Upcoming Event Dates

Sept.	17:	ARRL SW Convention San Diego
Oct.	9:	Fire Station 6 Open House
Oct.	30:	Borrego Springs Parade

## ARCEC Membership Form

Please print clearly, complete all info and return to Membership Chair with your payment:

- ☐ Individual Membership \$18.00      ☐ Family Membership \$30.00  
☐ Counterpoise by MAIL add \$18.00      ☐ Counterpoise by Email or Website FREE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of License: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family Members and Calls: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_ WAMO #: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: ☐ New Member      ☐ Renewal      ☐ Returning Member

\*If you are a returning member, you will keep your original WAMO # \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: I give my permission to publish my info on the Club Roster coming out ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, state exactly what information you do not want published: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all the apply: ARRL Member    ARES Member    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be in the Counterpoise Spotlight? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to be a member of The East County Response Team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Mail with payment to: Membership Chair, ARCEC, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022*

*\*\*To be eligible for the drawing, must be postmarked no later than December 1 of the year.*

*REV 9-2-2009*



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The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: [www.wa6bgs.org](http://www.wa6bgs.org)

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

### Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net



# FUN PAGE

## Birthday

June	1	WB6POW	Gordon	Ripley
June	7	KI6NHH	Art	Lopez
June	9	K6DXR	Gerry	Kodad
June	11	N6WHG	Phil	Pedigo
June	12	W6RHV	Bob	Boehme (L)
June	15	KF6MLK	Carl	Scavo
June	15	KI6MUH	Mike	McClure
June	17	KE6MTX	Sean	Brainard
June	17	KI6FSP	Ken	Howard
June	20	NX6Q	Mel	Dunn
June	22	KE6QCA	Allan	Ingram
June	27	WB6ODR	Bob	Smith
June	29	KE6QVF	Bill	Geiler
June	30	W6HJW	John	Wurtz
June		NO CALL	Lucille	Kelm (L)



## Word Search

D E V L O V N I W U K W T Y D D  
 E T H U Z W Y K Y A D D L E I F  
 S Y W Y T I N U M M O C W S S E  
 N J K T W S I S Y L A N A U T A  
 E U D N Y T C W J M W S C M I Y  
 C H I U G U O T P X S A T M N W  
 I W S O J J M S O E J N I E G T  
 L G F C K Z I U M A K D V R U G  
 Y J F Y H T W B A Z C A I W I N  
 F T A U E G L Y O U O R T Y S I  
 H Y I A H E H X J W A C I E H N  
 Z G R F D O O W N E K Z E A E O  
 W U X Z U A X T H Y O K S U D I  
 D I S W O G N I N E T S I L W T  
 Y A E S U J K A T J X Y Q L S O  
 K T H J K O Z T N I A T N U O M  
 M E M B E R S H I P U H F A I O

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVITIES    | <input type="checkbox"/> INVOLVED   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANALYSIS      | <input type="checkbox"/> KENWOOD    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAMPSITE      | <input type="checkbox"/> LICENSED   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY     | <input type="checkbox"/> LISTENING  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY        | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISASSEMBLED  | <input type="checkbox"/> MOTIONING  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTINGUISHED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOUNTAIN   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR          | <input type="checkbox"/> SANDARC    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIELD DAY     | <input type="checkbox"/> SUMMER     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ICOM          | <input type="checkbox"/> YAESU      |

## Brain Thinkers

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 = if by L.            | 1 if by Land          |
| 3 = S. in a T.          | 3 sides in a Triangle |
| 4 = Q in a G.           | 4 Quarts in a Gallon  |
| ----- This Months ----- |                       |
| 8 = S. on a S. S.       |                       |
| 22 = C.                 |                       |
| 88 = P. K.              |                       |

## Last Months Word Search

C C A M P S I T E V M G K Z V W  
 W G Y H G U C X R I W X U Q Y D  
 Z N N D M I O H H A K Y A E S U  
 D T W V W G N M U X I M R D W Q  
 G E K U E M K W K W H L C V X I  
 I S U M L N L A T R O M E M S K  
 H T D X E V T O V P Y W C R E V  
 M W V K C U M I J M I D M W R M  
 R Z J I T W T D Q Y L O H J U X  
 E X M H R X G V X N D O V M T I  
 S E N G N E E R G I W J K C H  
 S K V W C V W O W K Y N W L U S  
 E O G R A N D F A T H E R D R S  
 C N M I L T A R Y M Z K V H T A  
 O S V T I M S N A R T H Q L S Y  
 R V E R T I C A L G D G X W M D  
 P M Y Z H G O F F I C E R S Z C



# ASK AN ELMER

What is PSK31? Last month I discussed the Idea of a NIVIS antenna. This month I will answer the question what is PSK31 and how we can use it with a NVIS antenna.

PSK31 is a low powered digital mode used mostly on HF. To operate PSK31 you will need a Ham Radio with sideband, a computer with a sound card and away to connect the two together.

The computer uses software to decode and encode the PSK31 signal to your soundcard. I have had good luck with Digipan (<http://www.digipan.net/>), but most PSK31 software will do.

To connect the computer to the radio you have 3 main choices. You can buy an interface box ([www.westmountainradio.com](http://www.westmountainradio.com)), can homebrew one or you can audio couple.

Many haves have told me they enjoyed the plug and play nature of buying an interface box; however, I chose to build one similar to (<http://wa8lmf.net/ham/tonekeyer.htm>). As I'm writing this it is not 100%; therefore, next month I will publish a schematic of the fully functional interface box along a parts list from a local store.

For the test I used Audio coupling. Audio coupling is a quick and easy way to try PSK-31 for the first time. You need is a computer with a microphone, speaker and PSK software.

You can receive PSK by placing the computer microphone near your radio speaker.

To transmit bring your radio microphone close to your computer speakers and press the microphone button; however, remember you are responsible for all transmitted signals from your station intentional or not. When Audio coupling is extremely easy to overdrive the transmitted signal, interfere with adjacent stations and transmit unwanted background noise.

As you may remember from last week a NVIS antenna's takeoff angle is vertical or nearly. This causes the signal to "rain" down around your station and up to 400 miles away. In the rugged mountains of Afghanistan or the hilly back country of San Diego County this type of propagation can be extremely useful to eliminate areas without receptions. A practical and simple NVIS antenna is your trusty old Dipole close to the ground.

The construction was simple I chose 20 meters and made a Dipole Antenna from #16 copper wire. Reusing old ½" PVC pipes I raised it 4' off the ground. I feed the antenna with 50 ohm coax soldered directly to the wires.

After tuning the antenna by a little trimming and some help from my antenna tuner, I dialed down to 14.071. I was pleasantly surprised, with this modest antenna. Using 5 watts of power in a about an hour I was able to log 10 new calls from Apple Valley to Phoenix.

Next month I will discuss the software and hardware details in getting a PSK ON-AIR!

**The Editor's  
Corner  
KC6QLS Paul**



**Editor's Corner**

As you can see, we have a new column called "The Lighter Side of Hamming". If you have an Amateur Radio related story you would like to share, please submit it to the Editor for consideration.

**73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS  
Editor**

---

**Public Relations**

Wow, this club is Radio Active (pun intended). SANDARC sponsored a booth at the Santee Street Fair on Memorial Weekend. I was told that 40,000 plus people were expected to attend this event, and I believe that number was correct. The event opened at 10:00 a.m. and ran until 7:00 p.m., and we had people at the booth all the way up to 6:30 p.m. asking questions about Amateur Radio. Over all, we had about 30 licensed Amateur Radio individuals come up and ask questions about how to renew their license, ask about clubs in the general area and ask about how to upgrade their license. We just happened to have a new trifold for the club answering some of their questions. SANDARC also has a new trifold and answered the other half of the questions. A few people lived in the Kearney Mesa area and wanted to know about a club in that area of town so they were referred to the Convair 220 Club, who had provided their trifold with information about their club. We had lots of people interested in learning more about Amateur Radio and how to obtain their license and thanking Amateur Radio Operators for helping out in the previous fires. A few of our members stopped by the booth to say "hi", and I personally would like to thank the two who stayed to help work the booth.

**73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS  
Public Relations**

# Volunteers Needed

## Up Coming Events

See Club's Calendar on Page 4

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## E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpose* Mail to:

**WA6BGScounterpose@cox.net**

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## Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

---

## Things to keep in mind

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector*

*To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

---

## Quote of the Month

**"You become successful by helping others become successful."**

**Unknown Author**

## JOKE

Two quick one liners

82.6% of statistics are wrong...

Oh yea? If you're so smart, why don't I understand you?

**Lisie KI6EEK**



# THE WEED PATCH

Hi all, it's been great spending the past month with you, and I've really enjoyed seeing and working with everyone at the Tower Trailer Certification Class, the Pre-Field Day Antenna Party, and the Murdock Elementary School Science Fair.

In the May edition of "Where's the Weed Patch", you'll remember me telling you about Keith Jackson...the guy we met in Quartzsite Arizona who had ridden his bicycle all the way from Florida to fulfill dream. Well, on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, Keith arrived in Pacific Beach after riding coast to coast. His ride wasn't over yet though. From Pacific Beach, Keith rode his final leg to Balboa Park, ending his 3,020 mile journey. Hopefully we've not heard or seen the last of Keith Jackson. He's been asked to write a book, not so much about his bike trip, but a motivational book to encourage people to live their dreams, no matter what they are.



Another update to last month's "Where's the Weed Patch". I told you of all the mechanical mishaps we had on our way to South Dakota. Well, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, we headed back to El Cajon to have the necessary repairs taken care of before trying our luck at heading to South Dakota again. Since we arrived here, ShadePro came out and replaced our awning that the Arizona wind destroyed, we've had our TV antenna replaced (by one of our Club Members, John Boccia, who

works at San Diego RV Center), and Tireco, the national distributor for the Nanco tires that we've had so much trouble with, had UPS pick up our tires early last week. Hopefully we'll be receiving a check for reimbursement for the set of tires soon. All we have left to fix now is the body damage on the trailer that was caused by the tires blowing out. That will have to wait until we return in September for the Convention though.

## *Unpaid Advertisement!!*

Speaking of the Convention, it's coming up soon...Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup>. I'm in charge of the Special Event Radio Station at the Convention and am in need of help setting up Friday before the Convention doors open, during the convention operating our Radio's in the "Shack" and tearing down Sunday. We'll be on HF using a radio loaned to us by ICOM and the ARRL's California Call Sign W1AW/6 as well as on 2 meters giving "talk in" directions using SANDARC's W6SLF Call sign.

If you would like to help out, shoot me an email: [ko4qt@hotmail.com](mailto:ko4qt@hotmail.com) or phone call: (619)733-2320.

## *As Paul Harvey used to say:*

### *"Page Two"...*

In addition to having the much needed repairs taken care of on our trailer, Linda and I decided that while we're in town we'd do a major remodel to the trailer. Remember the "Slide" I told you about in last month's "Where's the Weed Patch"? The furniture in it, the couch, dinette table and benches for the most part, has been unused space since we bought the trailer 7 years ago. Early in May, just a couple days after we rolled in, we



Continued Page 14

# *Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul*

ARRL Debuts  
Television Drama Series

## *"Radio Rescue Newington" - Part III*

*He was an early President of the ARRL. The millions he amassed in a lifetime as a captain of industry left him unfulfilled. His passion for the hobby never left him. When he passed away, he left his millions to the League with strict instructions; "Grow this hobby." The Board of Directors accepted his challenge, and created the League's response to daunting challenges facing the non-technical Ham - "Radio Rescue Newington."*

**T**his month we continue our look at a new Ham television series '*Radio Rescue Newington*' - the latest tool in a League PR toolbox of strategies designed to grow the ranks of a hobby characterized by graying demographics. The brainchild of television producer I. Ron Skillet, the theme of the series is a hard-charging, action packed portrayal of a youth-oriented view of Amateur Radio, a proven formula to attract younger Hams to our hobby.

In this installment, Electrical engineer and *Radio Rescue Newington* team Director Dr. Phinneas 'Stonecold' Strongrack is on-duty with *Radio Rescue Newington* Unit 3 as they are dispatched to the scene of a high-stakes weekend radio contest gone horribly wrong. A "multi-multi op" or group of Ham operators co-operating in a radio contest team, had suddenly come up against a daunting technical challenge. High SWR readings plagued the competitive radio team. Thanks to quick intervention, *Radio Rescue Newington* stepped in to diffuse the potentially deadly situation and get the contesters back on track.

But as the bone-weary rescue team departs for the return to Newington, the radio crackles with an unusual plea for help. Suddenly, *Radio Rescue Newington* is re-activated, responding "code blue" to a Field Day site not far from League Headquarters. The white panel van speeds away from League Headquarters with emergency lights and siren activated, while a video camera crew is filming *Radio Rescue* Director Strongrack providing commentary on the response. "League Headquarters has received request for assistance from the Del Marva Radio Club, with a report of a generator which won't start." He pauses momentarily to respond to a radio call. "Ah, roger that, Newington, we are en-route, *code blue*. Radio team 3 out." Call completed, Strongrack comments, "I love doing that." Strongrack continues. "Del Marva club officials believe the generator may have been sabotaged by a rival Ham club. Police have no suspects in custody, at this time."

Arriving at the scene, team members quickly make their way through a scene of frantic Field Day activity. Club members are calling and logging contacts, their Ham equipment re-activated using an alternate power source. Making their way to the generator site, team members are all business. No thought is given to the club's performance in the contest or what the bands are doing. The site, a short distance from the Field Day activity, is cordoned off with crime scene tape and the team, grim-faced and 'all business,' sets to work. The generator and area around it is photographed and items around the generator are carefully catalogued by team members wearing coveralls and rubber gloves.

Next, the generator is carefully inspected for signs of tampering. Fingerprints are taken from generator surfaces and painstakingly catalogued. Though time consuming, the team continues its work patiently, evaluating all details



## Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

of the scene, no matter how small or seemingly inconsequential. Suddenly, a *Radio Rescue Newington* team member stumbles across a potentially significant discovery. He asks "*Is the air and fuel filter supposed to be full of all this stuff?*" The fuel and air filter containers are removed and disassembled, filter elements examined and contaminants present on the elements spread on a clean sheet of white cardstock. The contaminants are photographed, then carefully examined and packaged for shipment to Newington for complete forensic analysis. Lead members of the team then carefully clean and replace each filter assembly and re-attach them to the engine. All the while, other team members watch breathlessly as minutes tick by. Finally, the moment arrives when the ignition switch is pressed and the generator comes to life. Success! But just as power is restored, the smell of cooking bratwurst makes its way over to the scene of the investigation, and team members quickly agree to suspend further work at the generator.

Pausing at the food line, paper plate in hand, *Radio Rescue Newington* Director Strongrack comments "It's just too dark to continue. Sabotage may have been involved in this situation, but the fuel and air filters may have also played a part. We just can't make a certain determination until we get the contaminants and complete site analysis back to League headquarters for analysis. However, let me tell you, if it *was* sabotage, this team won't rest until those *dirtbags* are brought to justice. In the meantime, *we have work to do here*" Strongrack deadpans, motioning toward the grill filled with bratwurst.

Exhausted, team members depart for Newington while the Delmarva club members search for closure in a baffling mystery. Although to-date *Radio Rescue Newington* has not turned up any leads or suspects, their

efforts have saved the Delmarva club countless hours of time and vast resources.

Next week... an emotional meltdown for a newly minted Ham summons '*Radio Rescue Newington*' on a 'code blue' call to the "Hebrew Homebrew Club." Don't miss it!

Morris AZ6CW



Wild Bill, WB6BFG



## Even More Weed Patch

started working on our slide by removing everything, including the carpet. Once we were down to bare wood floor,



we installed adhesive vinyl tile (although discontinued, we were able to find tile that matched our flooring that we installed in the rest of the trailer about three years ago). Once we laid the tile,



I completed our design and began to fabricate desks for each of us (sewing and computer station for Linda and radio/computer shack for me) as well as shelving to make some of our most used items more accessible.



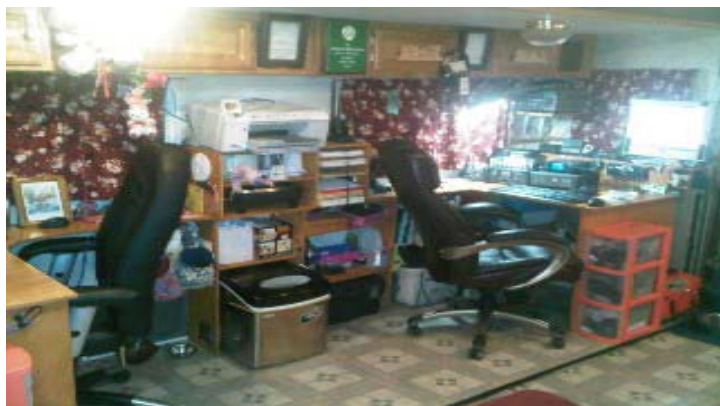
I took "drafting" in my Junior and Senior years at Grossmont High School in 1970/1971 but haven't designed a thing since, and wood work is something I've only done a couple times in my life (I built a porch for a mobile home I had while stationed in North Carolina 20+ years ago (it was pretty rickety but held up), and I built a bar in a mobile home I owned in Kansas in the late '80's (it was crooked but usable). When designing the remodel to our "Slide", I had to keep two things in mind. One, we had to make the best use possible of the 52 square feet in the "Slide", and the other, we had to insure the weight of the new build was much less than the furniture that previously occupied the same space. Thanks to the woodworking knowledge and expertise of Virgil K7VP WAMO# 1748, all wood cuts were precise and fit my design perfectly. The entire job was completed with only two 4'x8' sheets of 1/2" Birch plywood, a bunch of "L" brackets, a few assorted boxes of screws, less than a quart of stain and a quart of polyurethane. The remodel WAY exceeded my expectations in its looks, sturdiness, usability and weight distribution. It's hard to believe that I have a real HAM Shack again and that Linda has her sewing table inside the trailer! I'm slowly getting feed lines, cables and wiring run, taking care not to end up with the rat's nest of wires I've had in some previous installations.



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## Even More Of Weed Patch



Linda and I will leave (again) to summer in South Dakota on June 12<sup>th</sup> for the summer (just 2 days after our June Club meeting). We'll be spending Field Day with the Hot Springs South Dakota Amateur Radio Club and will be listening intently for the "Big Green Spider". We'll be back in town around Labor Day weekend so I'll have time to make final preparations getting the Convention Radio Station team together.

Until then, 73 and happy trails...

Steve and Linda  
K04QT/KI6JUD12 fo

## BE RADIO ACTIVE

What does that Mean?

B - Be Prepared  
E - Enthusiastic

R - Respectful  
A - Accountable  
D - Dedicated  
I - Initiative  
O - Optimistic

A - ARRL  
C - Clubs  
T - Technology  
I - Involved  
V - Volunteer

E - Education 2010 ARRL Southwestern Division



Amateur Radio Convention

September 17, 18 & 19, 2010

San Diego, California

Four Points, By Sheraton Hotel  
San Diego

For up to date information about the  
Convention, please visit us at the website:  
[www.sandarc.net/](http://www.sandarc.net/)

See you at the Convention!

## *From The Vice-President Continued*

Most of the people who brought equipment to Field Day will again do so this year. Again, I will need the name and call of the radio owners and for which band that radio would be used. The club will be providing the meals through your generous donations during the last few meetings. Our food budget goal is \$1000 and we are at present \$150 short! The meals will be prepared in the galley which the club has full use during Field Day. The kitchen crew would be headed by Polo with the help of Anselmo, KD6PRV and any other volunteers who wish to help. Entry into the cooking will be restricted to those volunteers who are working with Polo. Our safety officer for this year is Nick, AD6UK. There is to be no smoking at the camp site except for one designated area behind the galley. And also, please no alcohol as per campground regulations. This is a great time to test your radio skills and have a lot of fun. Last year we had about 125 people on Saturday along with a great demonstration from the Laguna Mountain Fire Department. They brought their truck and displayed everything that was in it.

The next event for June is the San Diego County Fair (also known as the Del Mar Fair). The fair run starts on 11 June and runs through 5 July. The first three Mondays the fair will be closed. The ARCEC usually takes the first weekend of the fair. However, if you would like to work the booth beyond the first weekend, please contact Paul, KC6QLS to make a commitment. We desperately need help this year. The booth and fair exhibit is an activity sponsored by SANDARC and maximum club participation is very desirable. As you know, SANDARC is sponsoring the ARRL SW Division Convention this year. It will be held from 17 through 19 September. We use the SANDARC booth at the fair to advertise Amateur Radio to the public and promote the convention. We also inform people where the bathrooms and eating places are located! So you can see that SANDARC does play an important role in people's lives during the fair.

Our club is so Radio Active that on short notice we held an Amateur Radio demonstration at Murdock Elementary School on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month. I'm sure you can look elsewhere in this *Counterpoise* for the full report on that. Virgil, K7VP will hold a soldering class during our July General Membership Meeting.

See you in the next *Counterpoise*!

Michael Maston, N6OPH  
Vice President  
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

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## NEW WAMO E-MAIL ADDRESS

[WorkAllMembersOnly@gmail.com](mailto:WorkAllMembersOnly@gmail.com)



**WAMO !!!!!**  
**Buck, WH7IZ**



# Lighter Side Of Hamming

## Start the Spark

My family and I were walking at the county fair, and taking in all the sights, sounds and all the fair food. We came across our favorite tucked away spot to sit and have lunch. From the view you can see the main gate and watch all the people walk by and talk about what they want to see or on their way out what they liked about the fair. I can remember going to the fair at the age of four and have never missed a year yet. In high school we packed the car and we must have taken about eight people at a time to the fair. We also went three or four times every time the fair rolled into town. When I first met my wife to be, one of our first dates was during the time the county fair was in town. We drove up to the fair and walked every square inch of it. We lost track of time and before we knew it midnight fell on us and the fair was closing for the night.

Well, we were married the next year and yes the county fair was on our list of places to go on the honeymoon, along with Disneyland. As we walked it I showed my new bride the family's tucked away spot where we liked to have lunch. She said, "Let's come back there for lunch now that I'm family." We walked all over the place and headed for a building that was always closed during the fair. We went in to cool off and see what was inside. I always wondered what was in there. It was a small room and we heard some strange voices and this beeping sound and saw some guys with headphones and some kind of device he was tapping with his hand. This older very distinguished man asked us if we ever heard of Amateur Radio? We looked at each other and back in his direction and at the same time NO, what is Amateur Radio? I'm so glad you asked, he showed us the radios,

explained what the other guy was doing, and what countries he has contacted. He explained the tapping was CW and what Morris Code was and how it came to be. He talked to us about the club he was a member of and how they can help you get readily to take the test. It sounded like fun so we took the membership form and told him we would see him at the next meeting. As we were walking out I asked him, "Why is this building open, and why was this not been here before?" He looked at me and said, "We have tried to setup here for years to demonstrate Amateur Radio but no one would volunteer for the job."

We went to the next club meeting, and saw the gentleman we saw at the fair. He walked over and shook our hands and welcomed to the meeting. At the meeting we found out that a novice class was starting next week and asked if we could make it. We said Yes, we will be there. Another gentleman stood up and asked us, "What got you interested in Amateur Radio?" I told him were we at the county fair and meet the very distinguished man and he took the time to explain what Amateur Radio was, and he started the spark and we just had to find out more about it."

Weeks of class and on the last day we took the Novice test. We both passed and were told of the Code and Tech Class that started next week. We both signed up for that too. About ten weeks later we both took the code test and the Tech test. We both passed again, so we waited for the paper licenses to come in the mail. About six weeks later our new Tech licenses arrived and we were set. We went to the next meeting and were



Continue on page 18

## Even More!!! Lighter Side of Hamming

asked to work at the next event, the event was to work the radio at the company's private park. We work the event on some Ht's that another club member let us use. We worked the event for many years until the company sold the park and buildings were built on it. It was always a fun event to work, finding lost parents, ridding the train that went around the whole park.

We started our family and were working and did not have time to spare to devote to Amateur Radio like we did in the past, working the radios at the company's private park/picnic, help at the Fair, "Start the Spark Booth" and many other events. Years later I ran into that very distinguished man at a swap meet and he asked me to watch his stuff while he went to get a cup of coffee. He ran over the asking prices for everything and went to get a refill. I sold an HT for him while he was gone, I think it was the same one I used years back at the very first event I used Amateur Radio. He came back and we must have talked for hours. The swap meet came to a close and we went our separate ways, not knowing this would be

the last time I would ever see him. He became a SK about six months later. One thing I learned from him is to always be ready to talk about Amateur Radio and take the time to explain it. You drive around with antennas and walk around with HT's and people will always ask you, what is that for? So carry some info with you about a club you belong to, or a web site, show them the part of Amateur Radio that excites you. You may just "Start the Spark" for the next generation of Amateur Radio Operators.

A few year after seeing him at the swap meet our kids were all at the age that we could rejoin a club and become active, helping out at some event, Start the Spark at the County Fair, just become involved. It is a lot of fun to see the kids at the fair when you really take the time to show them the radios, show them on a map where you just talked to. You see their eyes light up and they get that look in their eyes like something just clicked on! That my friends is called "Start the Spark." My new bride and I must have had the same look in our eyes long ago when we walked into that building at the fair and met the very distinguished lookingman.

73, Help build the next generation of Amateur Radio Operators.





## Some Radio Active Photos



Santee Street Fair



Murdock Elementary Science Fair



Visitor at the booth



Pre-Field Day Antennas Preparation Party



Lisie, KI6EEK hamming it up with a one line joke, knock knock.....



The Newest Board in place!  
*NO RV's Please!*



## **From the Desk of Monica Zech PIO City of El Cajon**

### **Wings Over Gillespie June 5th & 6th**

The 15th Annual Wings Over Gillespie Air Show presented by Air Group One, the San Diego Wing of the Commemorative Air Force, is ready for take-off this Saturday, June 5th, and Sunday, June 6th, at Gillespie Field in El Cajon. This year's event will showcase more than 40 military and civilian planes throughout the weekend, both flying and in static displays. Sponsored for the tenth year by Barona Resort & Casino, this year's show will commemorate the 66th Anniversary of D-Day. Some of the rare historic aircrafts that have played a significant role in the United States military history will be featured at Wings Over Gillespie including P-51 Mustangs, a Navy Corsair, Russian YAK aircraft and Marine helicopters. Four F-18s will fly in formation at the opening ceremony. Additionally, antique race cars and model flight aircraft will be on display. Gates open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with the air show starting at 10:00 a.m. For more information on the air show activity go to <http://www.wingsovergillespie.org/welcome.htm>.

### **4th of July Picnic & Fireworks at Kennedy Park**

Making your 4th of July plans yet? The City of El Cajon will be holding their annual 4th of July Picnic and Fireworks at Kennedy Park, located at 1675 East Madison Avenue. The picnic begins at 12:00 noon and the fireworks kickoff at 9:00 p.m. More details to come!

Also note: Waste Management services will be delayed one day, the week of July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

### **Calling East County Angels**

There's a very special volunteer organization that helps in times of crisis! Trauma Intervention Programs of San Diego County, Inc. (TIP) is seeking citizen volunteers who live in the East County. These volunteers will be trained to help fellow citizens who are in distress following a natural or unexpected death, fire, crime or other tragedies in your community. Volunteers are called to the scene by police, fire, Sheriff and hospital personnel to assist. Reserve your spot now; the next 50-hour training academy begins July 8, 2010. No experience is necessary to attend the training or become a volunteer. For more information, or to register, please call (760) 931-2104 or check their website at [www.tipsandiego.org](http://www.tipsandiego.org).

### **New Summer Recreation Guide Available Online!**

Schools will soon be out for summer and the City of El Cajon Recreation Department is ready to keep your kids active and engaged during the long, hot summer! This summer is especially important now that summer school is no longer offered in the school districts. Not only will they offer a full line up of instructional classes for all ages and interests, they will also be offering weekly day camps and their renowned summer aquatics program. Participants will learn new skills, receive excellent supervision, make new friends, get lots of exercise and most importantly - have fun! The complete listing of classes, camps, programs and recreation centers and parks are in this guide.

\*The Summer Recreation Guide is available at our El Cajon Recreation Centers and local libraries. You can also find the same guide online, and remember you can register online at [www.elcajonrec.org](http://www.elcajonrec.org). Have a wonderful summer!

Monica Zech  
Public Information Officer City of El Cajon



# Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello one and all,

As I write this month's article, Memorial Day has come to a close; or has it? As long as WE remember all of our brave men and women in our armed forces, Memorial Day can last all year long. What does Memorial Day mean to you? For me, it is the safe return of our older brother from Korea in 1951, as well as all of the men and women who as the saying goes, "All gave some, some gave all." To all of you who are serving and to all of you who have served, THANK YOU.

Roxanne Provaznik taught two Wild Land Fire classes in May, the first was May 15th and the other was May 29th in Valley Center. Just as the class was ending, Roxanne said "you all have passed the class, there is a fire and we have to leave." I was with her, and believe me I have never seen anyone pack up as fast as Roxanne; we were out of the building in about ten minutes and heading home. By the time we reached El Cajon, the fire was almost out, and all Roxanne had to do was put out a press release. Roxanne told me that if 15 or more people would like to go through Wild Land Fire Safety, she is willing to teach another class after the fair is over. This will be in the East County/San Diego area. Let me know if you would like to have the training soon. FIRE SEASON IS HERE! So come and join us in helping CAL FIRE protect our back country.

Have you volunteered to help out at the Del Mar/San Diego County Fair yet? We really need your help; if we have too many dates that are not covered, we could lose our long time association with the fair. So please, if you can, let Paul, KC6QLS, know you want to be part of this long tradition of Amateur Radio at the Fair.

Also, help is needed for the upcoming ARRL Convention that is in September from the 17th to the 19th. Let the Convention Chair Mike Maston, N6OPH or the Convention Vice-Chair Paul Rios, KC6QLS know that you want to help out.

Folks, there are a lot of events that YOUR club is part of every year. While we love to see our regular volunteers, we would invite you new members to volunteer and come to our events. There is no requirement that you have to be in the club for a certain amount of time before you can volunteer and participate in events. As soon as you join and pay your dues, you can participate in all club events. So please volunteer for club events. Don't worry if you don't know what to do or are unsure about getting on the air as the experienced volunteers are more than willing to train you and help you out.

Since I am not feeling well, I will stop for now. But as always, please support our brave men and women who serve our country; those who at this moment are in harms way, protecting us, and preserving our freedoms. Remember, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Rich, N6NKJ



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022



Issue Date 6/2010



**For Ham Radio  
Classes  
EXTRA License Starts  
Soon**

**Please Contact:  
Mike Maston  
N6OPH  
(619) 296-9067**

**Please Visit Our Website at  
[www.WA6BGS.org](http://www.WA6BGS.org)**



### VEC Testing Sites

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5 <sup>th</sup> or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info  
from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)